

Harford County Commission on Disabilities

319 South Main Street
Bel Air, Maryland 21014
410.638.3373 Voice/TTY 410.803.0433 Fax
disability@harfordcountymd.gov

Meeting Minutes

September 25, 2006

Attendance:

Members Present:

Bob Coen
Councilman Dion Guthrie
Stacey Hull
Gil Kennedy
Laurie Kwiedorowicz
Marc Weinstein

Members Absent:

Susan Austin
Debbie Braam
Angela Barnett
Buddy Green
Kathy Halliday
Joan Loftus

Amy Axel and Niki Biggs, who have been recommended to the County Executive to fill vacancies in the category of “individuals representing agencies serving people with disabilities”, were also in attendance.

- I. Vice Chairperson Laurie Kwiedorowicz called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m. Commission members and visitors introduced themselves.
- II. Minutes: The minutes of the August 28, 2006 Commission meeting were approved as presented.
- III. Committee Reports:
 - A. Executive Committee:
 1. Proposed by-laws changes (see attached) in reference to Associate Members were introduced by the Membership Committee as an agenda item for the October 23, 2006 meeting.
 2. Regarding the student representative, the committee will



Striving for a Better Way of Life for Harford County Citizens with Disabilities

seek clarification from Commissioner Susan Austin, on language to include transitioning students, 18-21 years of age, before recommending any further action to the Commission.

3. The Membership Committee has not yet made a recommendation to fill the vacancy in the category of “county citizen who owns or operates a local business or who is an employee of a local business, recommended by the Chamber of Commerce.”

B. Accessibility Committee:

1. Ramps for Homeowners and Renters Program: Work continues to finalize details of the proposed ramps program with Rebuilding Together, Inc. Rebuilding’s partner, American Ramps, has provided a copy of their Maryland Home Improvement Commission (MHIC) License. The responsibility for annual inspection and maintenance of the ramps will be included in required policies and procedures. A meeting to resolve final details will be held on September 29th. More information to follow.
2. Housing Coalition: No new information.

C. Education Committee: No new information.

D. Government and Community Relations Committee:

1. Commission web page: Hit report was provided to members.
2. Legislative Committee: The proposed Public Policy Statement will be presented for Commission review and approval prior to the 2007 Legislative Session.

- IV. Disabilities Coordinator Report: The Disabilities Coordinator reported on successful advocacy by a citizen. The individual contacted the corporate offices of a local chain restaurant to express concern about a lack of appropriately marked accessible parking spaces. The complaint was responded to immediately and within weeks, the appropriate number of spaces were designated with signage required under the Maryland Accessibility Code. Commissioner Bob Coen

added that he tries to provide feedback on a regular basis to facilities and programs that he attends, with typically positive response.

V. Old Business:

- A. Transportation Steering Committee: The video on using public transportation is being edited and will be available in October as will a tri-fold brochure on Harford Transit Services for persons with disabilities and a non-text based travel training booklet.
- B. Emergency Preparedness: No new information.
- C. Updating Commission on Disabilities Brochure: No new information.
- D. Harford County Public Library (HCPL) Assistive Technology Open House and Fair: The event will be held on October 7, 2006 at the Bel Air Branch of the Harford County Library. The event is co-sponsored by HCPL, the Commission on Disabilities, the Harford County Public Schools Partners for Success, and the Susquehanna Workforce Network.
- E. Harford County Town Hall Meeting (previously known as the Mental Health Town Hall meeting) will be held on December 4, 2006. The event will focus on cross-disability issues. Service providers will have exhibits and invited guests will include local elected officials and the public. More information to follow.
- F. Harford County Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities Annual Awards Ceremony and Luncheon will be held on Thursday, October 19th at noon. Nomination forms are available by contacting the Disabilities Coordinator at 410-638-3373 voice/TTY or via email at disability@harfordcountymd.gov.

VI. New Business: Strategic Plan 2007/2008 and Annual Report 2006: Gil Kennedy recommended that the Executive Committee meet to prepare these reports for full Commission review and approval.

VII. Public Comment and Announcements:

- A. Commissioner Stacey Hull reported that a drive-up flu shot clinic will be held at Ripken Stadium.
- B. Bob Coen reported that he contacted Kim Atkins of the Board of Elections about accessibility issues at his polling place. Ms.

Atkins was responsive to his suggestions and invited Bob to visit other polling places to provide input on their accessibility.

- C. Councilman Guthrie announced that the ramp to the front entrance to Joppatowne High School has been constructed.

- VIII. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m. The next meeting of the Commission will be held on Monday, October 23, 2006 at 5:00 p.m. at the historic "Bel Air Colored High School".

These minutes are available in alternative format upon request.